



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



August 1999

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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ILLINOIS, South

ILZ075>078-080>094

Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac

01 0001CST
31 2359CST

0 0

Drought

After one of the wettest Junes on record, the rest of the summer was quite dry. By the end of August, parts of Southern Illinois were in a moderate drought, according to the Palmer Drought Index. There was a wide range in drought conditions. Places close to the Ohio River bordered on severe drought, while farther northwest from Mount Vernon to Carbondale, the drought was mild. A couple of times during August, thunderstorms produced heavy rain west and north of Carbondale but dissipated before reaching the Ohio River. The effect of the drought on crops was greatest for soybeans, which rely more heavily on summer rainfall. The corn crop fared relatively well because it matured in the late spring, when abundant rains fell. The dry weather raised the fire danger into the very high category at times. During one of the larger grass fires about 10 miles northeast of Carbondale, a fire truck was destroyed by fire. Drinking water supplies were threatened in the Marion area, mainly because Marion's water supply depends on a fairly small lake. As a precautionary measure, Marion began pumping water from a lake near Herrin, but water levels in that lake dropped significantly. On the Ohio River, low water levels made navigation more hazardous for barge traffic, and voluntary load limits were put in place downriver from Paducah, KY.

INDIANA, Southwest

INZ081>082-085>088

Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

01 0001CST
31 2359CST

0 0

Drought

After one of the wettest Junes on record, the rest of the summer was very dry. By the end of August, Southwest Indiana was in a moderate drought, according to the Palmer Drought Index. Total rainfall at Evansville from July 1 through the end of August was around 2.5 inches, which is less than one third of the normal rainfall. Effects on crop yields were mild. The greatest effect was on soybeans, which mature relatively late. The corn crop fared relatively well, mainly due to heavy spring rains, which allowed it to mature before the drought set in. In those areas where drinking water supplies were taken from the Ohio River, a degradation in water quality occurred. This degradation was due to nearly stagnant river flows, which contributed to algae buildups that gave the water a poor taste and appearance. The dry weather raised fire danger into the high category at times. A number of brush and field fires occurred, including one near the junction of Interstate 64 and U.S. 41. A couple of bean and corn field fires scorched 5 to 10 acres each.

KENTUCKY, Southwest

KYZ001>022

Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mcracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

01 0001CST
31 2359CST

0 0

Drought

After one of the wettest Junes on record, the rest of the summer was extremely dry. By the end of August, Western Kentucky was in a severe drought, according to the Palmer Drought Index. Total rainfall from July 1 through the end of August was less than an inch at many locations, including Paducah, which reported about 0.75 inch for the 60-day period. July, 1999 was the driest July on record at Paducah, and August was tied for the third driest August. Most crops suffered badly from the drought, especially tobacco and soybeans. Most tobacco farmers reported they would barely break even with their crop. The soybean crop was severely affected, with yields less than 30 percent of normal. Only the corn crop fared reasonably well, mainly due to heavy spring rains, which allowed it to mature before the drought set in. Many cattle farmers were forced to begin feeding their herd hay as early as August due to lack of pasture. Disaster assistance was made available to farmers after Governor Patton requested a disaster declaration for all counties. Fields and shrubs dried out and turned brown, contributing to very high fire danger. Most counties instituted outdoor burning bans. A field fire on the south side of Paducah threatened a number of businesses along U.S. Highway 62, along with a coal train stopped on the tracks. Officials closed Highway 62 for a few hours to allow better access for fire equipment. Many other grass fires occurred, including a field fire in Ballard County that burned 10 to 15 acres and one in Marshall County that scorched 30 acres. Because most of the region relies on the Ohio River or deep aquifers for drinking water, water rationing was not mandated anywhere in West Kentucky. However, water quality deteriorated for those whose water was drawn from the Ohio River. The nearly stagnant river flow contributed to algae buildups, which gave the water a poor taste and appearance. Low water on the Ohio River made navigation more hazardous for barge traffic, so voluntary load limits were put in place from Paducah downriver to the Mississippi. Because the dry ground hardened, any vibration caused water mains to crack. The Owensboro system reported water main breaks were especially numerous there. Landscape and lawn care companies reported very slow business, requiring some to lay off workers.

Todd County
4 W Elkton

12 1443CST

0 0

30K

Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

A trailer was overturned, trees were down, and a few barns were partially unroofed.



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					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

MISSOURI, Southeast

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114 Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler - Stoddard - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid

01 0001CST 0 0 Drought
31 2359CST

After an abnormally wet June, the rest of the summer was very dry. By the end of August, far southeast Missouri was on the verge of a severe drought, according to the Palmer Drought Index. Total rainfall from July 1 through the end of August was less than an inch at many locations in and near the Bootheel. The areas least affected by the drought were north and west of Cape Girardeau, where thunderstorms produced torrential rain early in the month. Many crops suffered from the dry weather, especially soybeans. The corn crop fared reasonably well, mainly due to heavy spring rains, which allowed it to mature before the drought set in. Fields and shrubs dried out and turned brown, contributing to very high fire danger. Cape Girardeau County instituted an outdoor burning ban due to a rash of small brush fires.

Ripley County
3 N Doniphan

07 1837CST 0 0 5K Thunderstorm Wind (G52)

Trees were down on roads and power lines. The diameter of the trees was 8 to 9 inches.